

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:114
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
DECLINE IN GROUND WATER LEVEL
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether level of ground water in some parts of the country has gone down rendering hand-pumps and tube-wells useless;
- (b) if so, the names of affected places state wise;
- (c) whether the Government propose to formulate any action plan to overcome this problem to maintain required level of ground water;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, state-wise; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) The long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a situation of fall in ground water level in some localized pockets of 222 districts in the country covering the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Pondicherry. In some such areas, hand-pumps and tubewells are reported to have become defunct.

(c) to (e) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting under various schemes. Various measures as initiated in the country, by the Central Government to arrest decline in ground water and to harness it are indicated below:-

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(ii) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970 which was re-circulated in 1992 and 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water on "pilot basis" in the country during the IX Five Year Plan at a cost of Rs.23.48 crore.

(v) Formulation of a Central Sector Scheme of Recharge to Ground Water at an estimated cost of Rs.150 crore for inclusion in the X Five Year Plan.

(vi) Organisation of mass awareness and training programmes on water harvesting and recharging of ground water all over the country.